

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF

CNO

COMNAVELECSYS COM PME-119

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077316

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, MARR, TD

SUBJECT: CLOSING OF OMEGA STATION TRINIDAD, RETURN OF
DEFENSE AREAS, AND TERMINATION OF RE-ENTRY RIGHTS

REF: A) STATE 130641, JULY 3, 1973; B) PORT OF SPAIN 524

1. REFERENCE A STILL REPRESENTS USG POSITION ON QUESTION OF
DAA AND RE-ENTRY RIGHTS WITH EXCEPTION OF OMEGA STATION
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WHICH IS DISCUSSED IN PARAGRAPH 2 BELOW. EMBASSY SHOULD
REVIEW ITEMS 1. (D) - (E) IN REFERENCE A AND INFORM DEPT.
IF IT STILL CONSIDERS IT ESSENTIAL THAT THESE CONDITIONS BE

MET BY GOTT BEFORE DEFENSE AREAS CAN BE RETURNED.

2. WITH REGARD TO OMEGA, DOD HAS RE-EVALUATED ITS REQUIREMENTS AND MAY NOW WISH TO RETAIN STATION BEYOND EXPIRATION OF DAA IN DECEMBER 1977. DOD HAS A FIRM REQUIREMENT TO CONTINUE THE OPERATION OF OMEGA TRINIDAD UNTIL 31 MARCH 1976. THIS WILL ALLOW FOR AN ORDERLY TRANSFER OF OPERATIONS TO OMEGA LIBERIA. HOWEVER, THERE REMAINS A POSSIBILITY THAT DOD WILL BE INTERESTED IN CONTINUING THE OPERATION OF OMEGA TRINIDAD BEYOND THAT DATE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTARY COVERAGE FOR THE EASTERN PACIFIC UNTIL THE EIGHTH OMEGA STATION IN THE TASMAN SEA AREA BECOMES OPERATIONAL. THIS SUPPLEMENTARY COVERAGE REQUIREMENT CANNOT BE ACCURATELY DETERMINED UNTIL MARCH 1976 WHEN THE ARGENTINA AND LIBERIA OMEGA STATIONS WILL BE OPERATIONAL AND MONITOR DATA CAN BE COLLECTED TO VERIFY THE DEGREE OF EASTERN PACIFIC COVERAGE PROVIDED BY THOSE TWO STATIONS. THE POSSIBILITY REMAINS THAT THE OMEGA STATIONS IN LIBERIA AND ARGENTINA WILL BE UNABLE TO DUPLICATE THE SUPPLEMENTARY EAST PACIFIC AREA COVERAGE NOW PROVIDED BY OMEGA TRINIDAD.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT ON RESPONSE WE COULD EXPECT FROM THE GOTT WERE WE TO PROPOSE THAT THE TRINIDAD STATION REMAIN OPERATIONAL UNTIL 31 DECEMBER 1979. SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD, OF COURSE, REQUIRE AN EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING AGREEMENT WHICH TERMINATES ON 31 DECEMBER 1977.
INGERSOLL

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